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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.			
Typed or Printed Name		Maria J. Sousa	
Signature		Date	July 2, 2004
<p>AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111</p> <p>Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p>		Attorney Docket	GUID-012CON
		Confirmation No.	5237
		First Named Inventor	Hu et al.
		Application Number	09/900,503
		Filing Date	07/06/2001
		Group Art Unit	3625
		Examiner Name	Smith Jeffrey A.
		Title	Surgical Retractor Platform Blade Apparatus



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GROUP 3600

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 6, 2004 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before July 6, 2004. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

07/09/2004 BSAYAS11 00000023 502653 09900503

01 FC:1202 18.00 DA
02 FC:1201 172.00 DA



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GROUP 3600

PTO/SB/21 (08-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/900,503				
		Filing Date	July 06, 2001				
		Confirmation Number	5237				
		First Named Inventor	Hu et al.				
		Group Art Unit	3625				
		Examiner Name	Smith Jeffrey A.				
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		11	Attorney Docket Number	GUID-012CON			
ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)							
<table border="1"><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form IN DUPLICATE (2 Pgs.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (8 pgs.) <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Postcard</td></tr></table>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form IN DUPLICATE (2 Pgs.) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 (8 pgs.) <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Postcard
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Remarks							
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT							
Firm or Individual Name	ALAN W. CANNON, Reg. No. 34,977						
Signature							
Date	JULY 2, 2004						

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Typed or printed name	Maria J Sousa
Signature	
Date	July 2, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the PTO to Process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2004**

Effective 1/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/900,503
 Filing Date July 06, 2001
 Confirmation Number 5237
 First Named Inventor Hu et al.
 Examiner Name Smith Jeffrey A.
 Art Unit 3625
 Attorney Docket No. GUID-0012CON

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JUL 14 2004

GROUP 3600☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)** 190.00**METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)**☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number 50-2653

Deposit Account Name Law Office of Alan W. Cannon

The Commissioner authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fees indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☐ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application☐ Charge fees indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	330	2002	165	Design filing fee	
1003	520	2003	260	Plant filing fee	
1004	750	2004	375	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) \$**2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

Extra Claims		Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	28 -27 = 1	x 18	= \$18.00
Indep. Claims	9 -7 = 2	x 86	= \$172.00
Multiple Dependent			=

Large Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	42	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	280	2203	140	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	84	2204	42	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) \$ 190.00

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

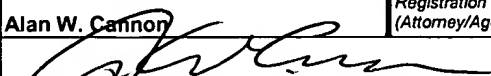
FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Fee Code	Large Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examination action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	410	2252	205	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	930	2253	465	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,450	2254	725	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	1,970	2255	985	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	320	2401	160	Notice of Appeal	
1402	320	2402	160	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	280	2403	140	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,300	2453	650	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,300	2501	650	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	470	2502	235	Design issue fee	
1503	630	2503	315	Plant issue fee	
1406	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	750	2809	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	750	2810	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) Terminal Disclaimer

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0**SUBMITTED BY****Complete (if applicable)**

Name (Print/Type)	Alan W. Cannon	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,977	Telephone	(408) 736-3554
Signature		Date	July 2, 2004		

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450